News Release

FOLLOW UP TO TAILGATE THEFT SERIES

Further investigation in the recent tailgate thefts led to the execution of search and seizure warrants in Howard County and Dorchester County which developed two suspects in the case. The suspects were identified as Brandon Lee Blucher of Glenwood, Md., and Riley Allen Eppley of Monrovia, Md.

Investigation revealed that Eppley and Blucher were stealing the tailgates which were then sold to an individual in Cambridge, Md.

Arrest warrants were issued for Eppley and Blucher on the following charges:

1. **12 counts of theft over $1,000**
2. **1 count of theft scheme $10,000 to $100,000**
3. **1 count of conspiracy to commit theft $10,000 to $100,000**

Brandon Lee Blucher was taken into custody in Monrovia, Md., and released. Riley Allen Eppley was arrested in Kenosha, Wis., and is currently in the process of extradition to Maryland.

TAILGATE THEFT SERIES

Since mid-February the Frederick County Sheriff's Office has taken 13 reports of tailgate thefts from late model Ford Super Duty Pickup trucks in the Bartonsville, Ijamsville, Monrovia, Mount Pleasant and Mount Airy areas of Frederick County. This theft series is also occurring in surrounding counties east of Frederick County.

These thefts are happening during the overnight hours, mainly on weekends, in rural residential communities. Several thefts usually occur in the same neighborhood at the same time.

The Sheriff's Office would like to remind the public to be more vigilant of their surroundings for any suspicious activity and call 911 to report any unusual activity. Additionally, we want to remind everyone to park their vehicles in a well-lit location, lock their doors, and if your tailgate has a locking mechanism please make sure it is engaged at all times.

Anyone with information regarding these thefts is asked to call SGT Andy Crone at 301-600-6041.